

Israeli colonel, 4 others killed in Lebanon battles

SIDON (Agencies) — Abu Nidal Palestinian group claimed responsibility Monday for the border attack in which an Israeli army colonel was killed.

A statement by Fatah-Revolutionary Council, the group led by Abu Nidal, said the guerrilla squad was "until now fighting the enemy forces who were deployed in the area."

But, the Israeli army said Israeli infantry and tank forces chased and shot dead the Arab guerrillas responsible Monday.

The Abu Nidal statement said the attack was in retaliation for Friday's Israeli air raids on Palestinian bases and positions of Hizbollah.

Seven people were killed and 18 wounded in the raids, the first Israeli air strikes against targets in Lebanon this year.

Israeli army Colonel Yitzhak Rahimov was killed Sunday in a gun battle with guerrillas who occupied a house in the zone Israel occupies in South Lebanon. He was the highest ranking officer killed since Israel withdrew the bulk of its military forces from Lebanon in 1985.

The army command said a patrol of the Israeli-trained South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia encountered three guerrillas, who barricaded themselves inside the house near the village of Yaroun, about 1.5 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

Israel army radio said an SLA unit led by Rahimov surrounded the three-storey house. A hand grenade was hurled from the house, and the guerrillas opened up with automatic weapons. Rahimov was shot in the head, it said.

Troops promptly stormed the three-storey house and found the body of one guerrilla there, said Israel's chief of staff, Dan Shomron. He said it was not certain whether he was killed by Israeli troops or by cover fire from his squad members.

After Sunday's exchange, troops backed by tanks launched an overnight search for two other guerrillas who the soldiers believed had fled the house, the army said.

"A chase has been going on since the early morning hours, and in the end they were discovered and in a short battle they were eliminated," Shomron said on Israeli army radio Monday.

An army announcement said "a fourth guerrilla was sighted in the area and was also killed by the Israel defence forces after a chase." It was not immediately clear whether the fourth guerrilla was in the house at the time of Sunday's ambush.

Sources in Lebanon said the identity of the guerrillas could not be immediately determined.

The clashes occurred in Israel's self-declared "security zone," a four-to-20-kilometre deep strip in South Lebanon designed as a buffer against resistance attacks.

The "security zone," set up in June 1985, is patrolled jointly by Israeli troops and about 3,000 militiamen from the SLA.

Last year, two Israeli soldiers and 12 SLA fighters were killed in clashes with guerrillas in the zone.

DFLP welcomes ex-Mossad chief's independent proposal

NICOSIA (AP) — A Palestinian guerrilla faction has welcomed a Middle East peace plan devised by a former Israeli intelligence official and said it has "positive points."

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said the plan proposed by Shmuel Toledano should be considered a working paper for discussion between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel in the framework of preparations for an international Middle East peace conference.

The DFLP said in a statement sent to the Associated Press in Nicosia that one of the main points of interest in the plan was a survey showing that 60 per cent of Israelis would accept it.

"If the plan's survey is close to the truth, then it should be considered a sign of change in Israeli public opinion that is worth checking and following up," the statement said.

The peace plan, which calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state in stages, was proposed last week by Toledano, an adviser on Arab affairs to three Israeli premiers and a former official of the Mossad intelligence agency.

Toledano, 66, called on Israel in his plan to declare its willingness to accept a Palestinian state and withdraw from almost all the occupied territory in the West Bank and Gaza Strip within five years.

He suggested that the PLO end the two-year-old uprising in the occupied zones, halt attacks and recognise Israel, while the neighbouring Arab states should end the state of war against Israel and create special ties with the Jewish state.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has already denounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist in a new peace initiative.

But hardline guerrilla factions, who have serious reservations about Arafat's initiative, have continued to attack Israeli forces, arguing that hitting military targets is legitimate.

PLO 'commitment'

Arafat has reaffirmed the PLO's commitment to a peace settlement with Israel, Oman's Al Watan daily said.

The PLO chairman was quoted as saying in an interview published that it was up to his organisation to decide how to reach a settlement with Israel.

Oman's ruler, Sultan Qaboos, met Arafat Saturday to discuss the stalled peace process and agreed to upgrade the PLO office in Muscat, opened last year, to an embassy.

Arafat, interviewed after his meeting with Qaboos, also stressed that the two-year-old uprising will continue "despite all the human and material losses it faces every day, and despite Israeli obduracy."

He said the reformist movements which have swept Communist governments from power in Eastern Europe were "imitating" the uprising that erupted in December 1987.

"We are keen to pursue our peace directive, for it is we who choose the type of battle and the type of fighting," Al Watan quoted Arafat as saying.

Israel, while proposing elections for the occupied territories, has refused to any negotiations on the issue that include PLO representatives.

'Oil gives power'

Arafat said Sunday increased reliance on Arab oil would give Arabs a bigger say in world politics, the Oman News Agency reported.

"After 1992, the West's needs for Arab oil will become more than any time in the past because of depleting wells in America and declining output from the North Sea," it quoted Arafat as saying before leaving Oman.

37 held in connection with attack on Algerian court

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Authorities have arrested 37 Muslim fundamentalists in connection with an attack at an Algerian courthouse in which three men died, the French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported.

An 18-year-old gendarme and two assailants of 15 and 29 years of age died in an exchange of gunfire Tuesday at the courthouse in Blida, a suburb of Algiers, AFP reported.

The attack was claimed by a Shi'ite Muslim association called the Tradition of the Prophet and Islamic Law.

An investigating magistrate Saturday night began questioning the 37 men between the ages of 16 and 20 arrested in the Blida region since Tuesday, AFP said.

Four men have already been charged with taking hostages and attack with a deadly weapon, the news agency said.

The attack began in a courtroom where an elderly man was being tried for the murder of his wife. Shouting "Allah Akbar" and "we are going to kill all of you, enemies of God," the commando closed off the courtroom, taking a number of hostages.

Authorities surrounded the courtroom and an exchange of gunfire followed in which the gendarme was killed as well as two members of the commando, including the leader, a 29-year-old student of the Koran.

It was not known precisely what prompted the attack.

State Prosecutor Amar Bengarah told a news conference the group planned to wage guerrilla war against the Algerian state and appeared independent of existing Algerian or foreign fundamentalist organisations.

Bengarah said 18 people including six minors had been identified as members of the new fundamentalist group. Twelve had now been detained and four were at large.

"For the time being, nothing allows us to say this group belonged to any known political organisation on the Algerian political scene," he said.

The group had planned to attack police stations, the seat of provincial government in Blida and the mayor's office, seize arms and retreat to nearby mountains to wage a guerrilla war.

The leader of Algeria's largest fundamentalist group, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), condemned the courtroom raid.

"We have chosen dialogue. The dialogue has begun and its results have been positive... it is not wise to resort to violence. This operation is not in the interest of anyone," Abbasi Madani told Reuters.

The FIS, which claims three million supporters among the country's 24 million people, has pledged to work for Islamic law through democratic means.

Bengarah named the leader of the Blida group as Khelil Nacereddine, 30.

APF said that despite his low intelligence Nacereddine put together a group of secondary school students and black market traffickers through his "extraordinary powers of persuasion."

Goulding ends talks on fate of Higgins

BEIRUT (AP) — United Nations envoy Marrack Goulding wound up talks with Lebanese government and militia officials Monday on the fate of U.S. marine William Higgins, who was reported hanged by his pro-Iranian kidnappers last summer.

Goulding, an assistant secretary-general, met with Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, the spiritual head of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Hizbollah, and with Nabih Berri, justice minister and leader of the secular Shi'ite Amal militia.

Goulding left Beirut for Syria.

A source close to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said Goulding's meeting with Fadlallah was "to try to ascertain Higgins' fate."

Higgins, who headed a U.N. observer team in South Lebanon, was kidnapped near the southern port of Tyre Feb. 17, 1988. The pro-Iranian Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth claimed it killed him last July after Israel kidnapped a businessman, journalists and trade unionists.

Hussein, regarded as the pre-eminent leader of the 1.7 million Palestinians under Israeli occupation, was released from three days in detention Monday.

Citing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement that a "big Israel" was needed to house Soviet Jews, they called for "practical steps to ensure that no immigrant to Israel will be settled in the occupied territories."

"The use of the Soviet Jewish immigration issue as a rationalisation for Israeli entrenchment, territorial expansion, and intransigence will inevitably have disastrous effects on peace in the region," they said.

The memorandum said Israel was attempting demographic and geopolitical changes threatening regional stability.

In its latest leaflet, the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas condemned Moscow for allowing hundreds of thousands of Jews to emigrate to Palestine and appealed to Arab and Muslim states to pressure the Kremlin to reverse its decision.

Israeli officials, playing down Shamir's remarks after sharp criticism by Washington, cited statistics showing only a few immigrants last year settled in the occupied territories.

The nationalists' memorandum criticised the United States for imposing quotas on the admission of Soviet Jews, effectively forcing would-be emigrants to settle in Israel.

They also contrasted the mass Soviet immigration with what they called "Israel's continued policy and efforts at depopulating the occupied territories through deportations, expulsions of Palestinians not registered in Israeli census records and denial of family reunification permits."

Palestinians seek Western help to stem flow of Soviets

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian leaders have appealed to Western countries to prevent Israel from resettling thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a memorandum to Western consuls-general in Jerusalem made available to Reuters Monday, 26 nationalist leaders from the occupied territories and Arab Jerusalem voiced deep concern at the impending mass migration of Soviet Jews.

"The grotesqueness of the injustice of importing one million Soviet Jews... should not be more blatant than ever, especially while the... forced exile and statelessness of millions of Palestinians is being perpetuated," the statement said.

Signatories included Faisal Al Hussein, Jerusalem Mufti Sheikh Saadeddin Al Alami and two dozen doctors, academics, businessmen, journalists and trade unionists.

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Musa: No dialogue with fundamentalists

ABU DHABI (R) — Egypt's new interior minister has ruled out a dialogue with Muslim fundamentalists, saying he is not a cleric, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper reported Monday.

"I have no intention of opening a dialogue with fundamentalists in Egypt. I am a security man, not a cleric," the semi-official Al Itihad quoted Mohammad Abdul Halim Musa as saying.

Musa replaced Zaki Badr, a hardliner sacked by President Hosni Mubarak this month.

"I don't recognise anything called a dialogue with the extremist parties, especially when it concerns security in the country," Musa was quoted as saying.

Iran holding families of human rights violation victims

NICOSIA (AP) — The main Iranian opposition group said Monday that the Tehran government was detaining the families of people tortured and executed to prevent them giving testimony to a United Nations human rights investigator.

A United Nations delegation arrived in Tehran Sunday to begin the first major investigation into alleged human rights abuses in Iran since the 1979 revolution.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, said the mission was scheduled to meet several senior Iranian officials, but did not identify them.

It is led by Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, the U.N. Human Rights Commission's special envoy and an international law expert from El Salvador.

The opposition group Mujahadeen-e-Khalq said in a statement Monday that Iranian security police started several days ago "mass arrest of families of victims of political executions and political prisoners — who are foremost among witnesses of human rights violations in Iran."

The statement, telexed to the AP from the group's Baghdad headquarters, said the detentions had taken place in Tehran, Bandar-Anzali, Lahijan and other provincial cities. It said those detained had been warned they would be punished if they spoke to the investigators.

It said police had set up check points in major cities. 150 in Tehran alone, to check the movement of people who might want to talk to the U.N. team. The report could not be immediately independently confirmed.

The U.N. team's arrival marked a significant breakthrough for human rights campaigners who have long been concerned at abuses in Iran since the revolution. Thousands of people have been reportedly executed since 1979.

The U.N. investigation came amid efforts by President Hashemi Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists who were elected July 28, to liberalise Iranian society after a decade of rigid Muslim fundamentalism.

Shortly after the U.N. team arrived, Tehran Radio reported that the head of Iran's judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, told a meeting of prison directors in Tehran that all inmates must be treated "with respect and in accordance to Islamic law."

It is not known how many people are behind bars in Iran. But dissident groups claim that thousands of political prisoners are held without trial, languishing in appalling conditions and subjected to torture.

The state radio quoted Yazdi, a former chairman of parliament's judicial and legal affairs committee appointed judiciary head by Rafsanjani in August, as saying it was the directors' responsibility to "observe and adhere to divine regulations and supervise implementation of prison rules."

The Mujahadeen said Yazdi told the directors to evacuate or hide torture victims if the U.N. investigator inspects the prisons.

Tehran invited Galindo Pohl to visit Iran last November, ending its long-standing rejection of allowing in foreign observers to check its human rights practices.

The invitation was extended after Galindo Pohl produced an interim report, based mainly on evidence from Iranian dissidents, that abuses continued unabated after Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, died June 3.

That report cited 1,700 people "possibly executed" and contained evidence that prisoners were flogged, whipped on soles of their feet with barbed wire, burned with cigarettes, sexually abused, locked up in heated boxes and taken out for mock executions.

Galindo Pohl will submit a report on his findings in Tehran to the human rights commission's annual six-week session in Geneva that is scheduled to begin Jan. 29.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

China to launch Arab satellite

BEIJING (AP) — China's Great Wall Foundation has been chosen to launch an Arab communications satellite, the official Xinhua news agency said. The satellite will be launched at the end of 1991 for the Arab Organisation for Satellite Communications, a network that groups Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Morocco, Iraq, Syria and Jordan. ArabSat, as it is also known, already has two satellites in orbit. Xinhua said China's bid was selected at an ArabSat meeting last week, and the choice was announced by Mohammad Shaheed Ismail, director-general of the group's Jordan office. Great Wall is China's commercial satellite-launching venture. It has negotiated several launches in recent years but none has taken off. In December, U.S. President George Bush gave approval for it to launch three U.S.-made satellites over the next two years for Hong Kong and Australian owners. China has sent 25 of its own satellites into space since 1970.

Senior Sudanese politician acquitted

KHARTOUM (AP) — A military court has acquitted a former Sudanese official of charges of anti-government activities. Idris Al Banna, a member of the five-man state council that served as Sudan's presidency before it was ousted June 30 by a military coup, was brought before the court accused of publishing a poem criticising the government of Omar Hassan Al Bashir. Security authorities said they seized anti-government leaflets containing the poem last month. But the military court acquitted him for lack of evidence. Banna was sentenced last year by another military court to 40 years in jail after being found guilty of abusing power and financial mismanagement.

34 tonnes of drugs seized in Iran in 1989

NICOSIA (R) — Iran seized more than 34 tonnes of drugs and smashed 277 trafficking rings in the past 12 months, Tehran Radio reported. Iran executed more than 900 drug dealers last year, many hanged in public after being convicted under a tough anti-drug law which set the death penalty for possession of 30 grammes of heroin or five-kg of opium. Listing the achievements of the law which took effect on Jan. 21, 1989, the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee said 12,000 addicts had also kicked their habit in the period, the radio said. Thousands of addicts were sent to labour camps after a six-month grace period ended in July. Officials say there are one million addicts in Iran, which lies on a major drug route from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Europe.

Rabin: U.S. to supply tanks to Egypt

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the cabinet Sunday that the United States plans to supply several hundred tanks to Egypt, Israeli army radio said. A well-informed Israeli official confirmed the report and said Rabin referred to U.S.-made M60A1 tanks. The official declined to provide any details on delivery date or the number of tanks to be supplied. In Washington, White House spokesman Sean Walsh had no comment and referred the query to Pentagon, where press duty officer Ken Satterfield also declined to comment. The M60 tanks entered service in 1960, and its updated version, the M60A1 with a modified commander's cupola, was introduced in 1962.

Next OIC summit in Dakar, not Cairo

JEDDAH (AP) — The sixth pan-Islamic summit conference will be held in Dakar, Senegal, early next year, a spokesman for the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) said Sunday. The spokesman told the AP: "The venue of the summit was fixed during the fifth Islamic summit held in Kuwait in January 1987 and has not been changed." Gulf newspapers had earlier reported that the Jeddah-based, 46-member organisation would hold its next summit in May in Cairo. The OIC, which seeks to promote solidarity and cooperation among Islamic countries, holds summits every three years. Foreign ministers of the organisation meet once a year. But the next summit has been delayed until next year because Senegal has not been able to make preparations in time.

Israel may build aircraft facility in Illinois

TEL AVIV (R) — State-owned Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) said Sunday it was negotiating with the U.S. state of Illinois to build a helicopter maintenance facility there. "There were indeed discussions and we are hoping for a positive conclusion," IAI spokesman Phil Hermann told Reuters after the negotiations were announced by Illinois Governor Jim Thompson. IAI, which the government hopes to partially privatise, already has an aircraft maintenance facility in Florida and Hermann said the firm would pursue any profitable opportunity.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News summary in Arabic
16:00 Local programme
16:05 Agricultural programme
16:10 Programme review
16:15 News in Arabic
16:20 Arabic series
16:25 Programme review
16:30 Local programme
16:35 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Lucifer
18:00 Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
18:30 L'Apprenti
18:40 News in French
18:45 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Mr. Belvedere
21:00 Real Charlotte
21:30 News in English
22:30 Hunter

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr
06:30 Sunrise (Shamir) Doha
11:47 Dhuhr
14:48 Asr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifish Tel. 510740.
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Ternesian Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712651.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 683226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 645922.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be cold and partly cloudy to cloudy at times with expected snow

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ali Assad 879719
Dr. Joseph Issa 770560
Dr. Sami Khoury 681373
Dr. Selim Tawad 809013
First pharmacy 661912
Fendous pharmacy 776336
Al Asana pharmacy 637035
Mawroth pharmacy 626679
Al Salim pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Raiders Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 801228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 863390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 602800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 661176
Complaints 879467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone

REPAIRS

Abdali Telephone Repairs 623101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 663631
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

HUSSEIN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Ann. 644281/6
Al-Khaldi Maternity, J. Ann. 644281/2
Hotel Amman Maternity 642362
Mafha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845945
Al-Munasser Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-ABB, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mahajra 771013/3
Al-Badr, J. Abdali 771112/6
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 662240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)933323

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:00 Damascus (RJ)
05:10 Jeddah (RJ)
05:15 Agaba (RJ)
05:30 Cairo (RJ)
05:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
05:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:30 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:45 Cairo (MS)
10:50 Kuwait (KU)
11:00 Moscow, Larnaca (SU)
11:05 Rome (AZ)
11:15 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
11:20 Beirut (ME)
11:25 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)
07:10 Tripoli (RJ)
07:15 Moscow, Larnaca (SU)
07:20 Rome (AZ)
07:30 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
07:35 Beirut (ME)
07:40 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
07:45 Cairo (RJ)
07:50 Kuwait (KU)
08:00 Moscow, Larnaca (SU)
08:05 Rome (AZ)
08:10 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
08:20 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
08:25 Cairo (RJ)
08:30 Kuwait (KU)
08:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
08:40 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
08:45 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:55 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg

Apple 420/380
Banana 430/400
Banana (Mukammur) 400/350
Beane 600/500
Cabbage 90/80
Carrot 210/180
Cauliflower 170/120
Cucumbers (large) 280/220
Cucumbers (small) 420/320
Dates 230/200
Eggplant 120/80
Garlic 300/270
Grapefruit 260/230
Lemon 260/230
Marrow (large) 200/120
Marrow (small) 320/220
Onion (dry) 220/120
Onion (green) 220/120
Orange 220/180
Orange (Shamouti) 350/280
Pepper (hot) 150/120
Pepper (sweet) 200/120
Potato 200/140
Radish 120/80
Sage 140/100
Spinach 140/100
Tomatoes 60/50

Jordan Times

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On the road again

FOR SOMEONE who has not lived through the events of the past two years in Jordan, the change in the political and economic life of the country can only be characterised as remarkable. Not only have there been some big problems with the economy and a dramatic change of government and a freely-elected parliament. There also have been, and more importantly perhaps, a new political spirit and modes of thinking that have given birth to a surge in political freedoms and the right of speech which all citizens enjoy today.

It is in the absence of such a spirit and political atmosphere as it exists today that the Jordanian press had to operate for many years. Gone for ever are those years, but the change is all the more remarkable as far as we in the press are concerned.

It is a new era for us, as it is a new challenge and added responsibility for the whole country. The change that we have witnessed is not an end in itself. It is the beginning of an experiment that we, in the Jordan Times along with the Jordanian media, shall endeavour to push towards success.

We cannot be unaware of the difficulties that lie ahead on the road to building strong institutions and a model state. Nor do we promise to foresee all pitfalls and be able to avoid them. That is not how democracy is realised, for there is no easy, direct way to it. But since the day it was published nearly fifteen years ago, this newspaper has always done its utmost to be a voice of objectivity, accuracy and reasonableness. We have not always met with success. But we pledge to keep trying. Surely, the new change will be of great help.

George Hawatmeh



Sawt Al Shaab

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Monday said the events in Eastern Europe should not be passed unnoticed by the Arab World and everything possible should be done by the Arabs to maintain their traditional friendship with the Eastern as well as the Western European countries. The paper noted that Israel lost no time in sending envoys to the Eastern bloc, trying to improve its image and blaming the Arabs for the uneasy relationship between Eastern Europe and the Jewish state. The Israelis left no moment to be wasted and are continuing to win favour from Europe at the expense of the Arab World, the paper continued. The paper said that Israel and its allies are not only trying to damage the Arab-European relations but also are making arrangements to ensure that all those Jews who leave the Soviet Union will eventually find their way to Israel. The paper said that the chance is still there for the Arab countries to dispatch their foreign ministers to improve relations with the Europeans following the upheaval, and to abort all Israeli attempts to sow seeds of hatred between the Arab Nation and the Eastern European nations.

Al Dustour daily newspaper expressed appreciation to Western European countries, specially the European Community members for their decision to impose limited sanctions on the Jewish state for its continued inhuman practices in the occupied Arab territories. The paper said that unlike the United States which maintains support and all forms of assistance to Israel, the European Community countries have decided to express their dissatisfaction with Israel over its repressive measures against the Palestinian people by restricting their dealings with the Jewish state. We look with respect and appreciation to the European Community action which translates the community's declared position with regard to the Arab-Israeli question, said the paper. Although the European Community's sanctions are regarded as a token form of penalty on the Jewish state, it is hoped that the Europeans will continue to monitor the situation in our area and impose further sanctions on the Jewish state for its human rights violations and its disregard to international principles and laws, the paper added.

By Farouk Nassar
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Lebanon's two rival governments are now at an armed standoff, and the next stage of the conflict may be diplomatic rather than military.

Christian leader Gen. Michel Aoun is insisting on his government's legitimacy, though Elias Hrawi was elected president by parliament in November and backed by an Arab League-backed peace plan.

Hrawi's Syrian supporters have backed off taking military action for the time being against Aoun. Over the past few weeks, the Syrians have quietly withdrawn 15,000 troops from around Aoun's Christian enclave north of Beirut, which comprises less than one-third of Lebanon's territory. Lebanese military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, stressed that Damascus has not abandoned the option of storming Aoun's stronghold with the 40,000 troops and hundreds of tanks in Lebanon.

But Damascus may be counting on diplomatic pressure and internal Christian opposition to Aoun to bring him to heel rather than risk a costly assault that could sharpen divisions and wreck what many see as Lebanon's best prospect for peace since 1975.

The 15,000 Syrian troops were sent in last year to reinforce positions along Beirut's dividing green line and in the mountains southeast and northeast of the capital.

Reporters who toured those areas in recent days found that many of the positions held by the Syrians are now manned by Muslim troops of the fractured Lebanese army and their militia allies.

Aoun is holed up in the Christian enclave with an estimated 20,000 mostly Christian troops. He also occupies the shell-shattered presidential palace in the Christian suburb of Baabda, which he has held since outgoing President Amin Gemayel named him interim premier in September 1988.

Gemayel appointed Aoun president when parliament was unable to elect a successor.

Aoun refuses to surrender the palace to Hrawi, who he does not recognise, claiming he is a "Syrian puppet."

Hrawi has dismissed him as army commander and interim prime minister, but he refuses to step down.

Aoun rejects the peace accord endorsed by Lebanon's parliament last October because it does not provide a timetable for a total Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon.

He considers the Syrian forces, who entered Lebanon in 1976 under an Arab League peacekeeping mandate, to be an army of occupation that sides with the Muslims.

"The Syrians are under heavy international pressure, especially from France and the United States, not to take military action against Aoun, and they seem to have given up the idea of storming the presidential palace — for the time being, at least," a well-informed source in Muslim west Beirut noted.

"They're seeking to have the Americans, the French and others step up pressure on Aoun to take a more compromising stance. If that fails, they will lobby for international support for military action against Aoun."

The Muslim troops commanded by Gen. Emile Lahoud, appointed by Hrawi to replace Aoun, and the Syrian-backed Muslim militias are not considered to be a match for Aoun's well-armed troops without Syrian firepower to back them up.

Aoun's U.S.-trained forces have American and French tanks and artillery, bolstered by Soviet bloc hardware sent by Iraq last year, including tanks, armoured vehicles and multi-barreled rocket launchers.

The 22,000 Muslim troops are poorly equipped with aging Soviet-designed weapons and have generally stayed out of the fighting. Their militia allies are better armed and can mobilise some 20,000 hard-core fighters. But most are poorly disciplined. The military sources said both sides are getting ammunition supplies in violation of a Sept. 22 cease-fire that ended six months of artillery battles between Aoun's forces and the Syrians that killed more than 900 people, mostly civilians.

One of the provisions was a ban on all military supplies to the warring factions by Syria and Iraq, its archival in the Arab World.

Aoun has received "two or three shiploads" of artillery shells and rockets to replace the large amount of ammunition his forces used up and last year's battles, the sources reported.

Lahoud's forces, who received 100 aging T-54 tanks from Syria last year, are getting ammunition from Damascus, the sources said. It was not known if Aoun's new ammunition supplies came from Iraq, which last year provided the Christians with 12 to 18 Soviet-designed Frog-7 surface-to-surface missiles capable of reaching Damascus.

That gave the Christians the capability to hit the Syrian capital for the first time, adding a new

dimension to the conflict. But given Syria's retaliatory power, the Christians are not likely to launch the Frogs against Damascus except as a last resort.

Hrawi's finance minister, Ali Khaili, is visiting Paris and Washington this week, and reports he is seeking military aid in the confrontation against Aoun.

Both sides have launched military recruitment drives, with Aoun saying women volunteers will be accepted for the first time.

Aoun, 54, shows no sign of backing down from his crusade to force the Syrians out of Lebanon.

The disclosure that he had stashed away \$15 million in French bank accounts touched off allegations of corruption.

Aoun said the money had been donated to purchase weapons because Hrawi, elected by parliament in November, had cut off state funds for his troops.

The scandal bruised Aoun's image of incorruptibility. But he still commands broad support among Lebanon's Maronite Catholics, the dominant Christian sect, and some Muslims who see him as the standard-bearer of Lebanese nationalism against Syrian domination.

On the diplomatic front, most of Lebanon's 73 embassies and consulates support Hrawi. The only significant holdout is the

ambassador in Washington, Aoun loyalist Abdallah Bouhabib.

Aoun also faces internal opposition from the Maronite church and right-wing forces. Relations are strained between him and the Lebanese Forces, the main Christian militia he forced to submit to his authority in streets battles more than a year ago.

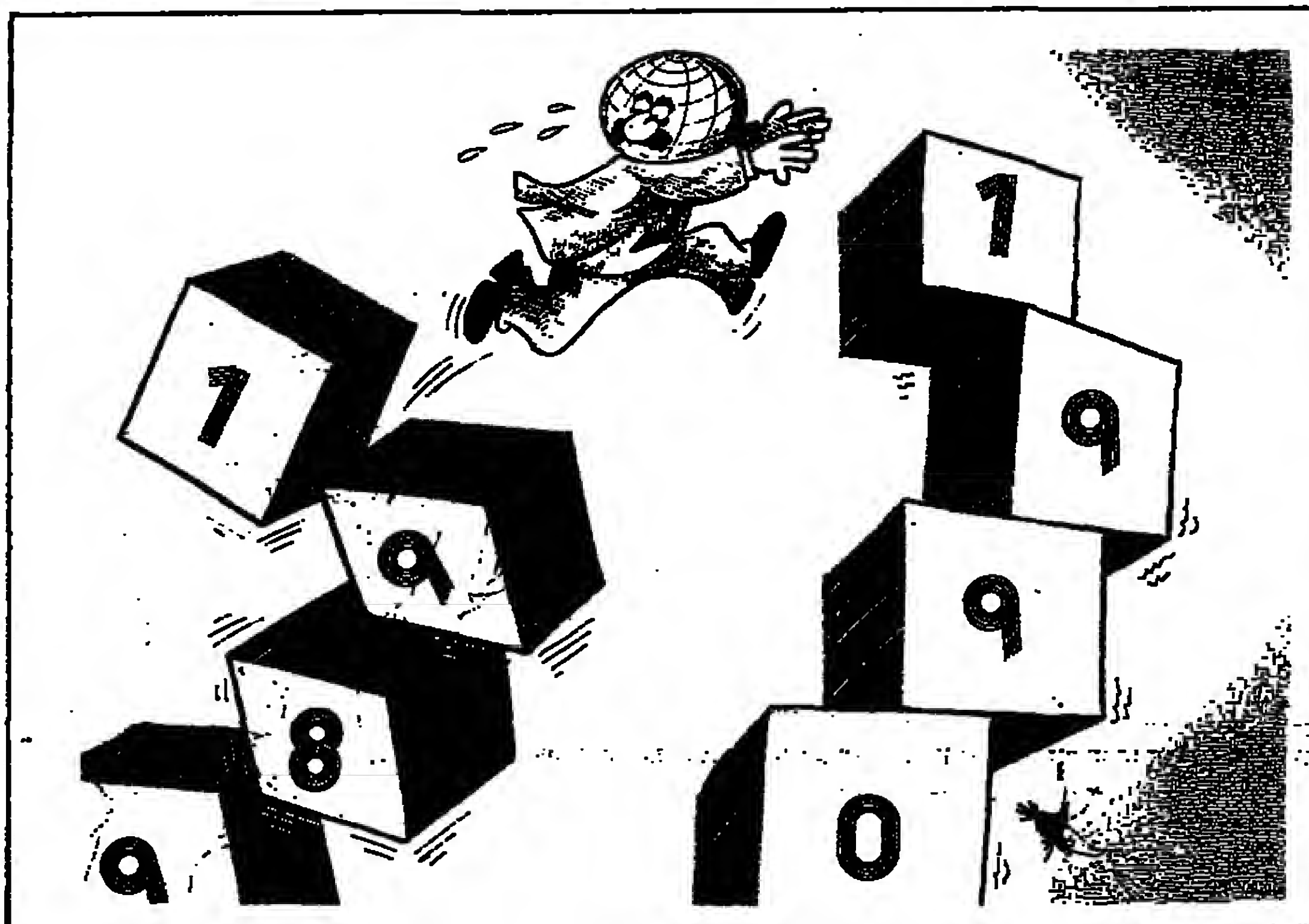
Analysts believe that Aoun will have to crush militia chief Samir Geagea, who has the backing of the Christian business community, if he wants to sustain his rebellion.

But there are also signs of discontent within his forces. Middle and lower echelon officers privately complain about being dragged by Aoun into a conflict that could finalise Lebanon's partition, diplomats said.

Three weeks ago, Aoun arrested a group of officers, ranging in rank from lieutenant colonel to brigadier, for slipping into Muslim west Beirut for talks with Lahoud.

On Jan. 3, gunmen tried to assassinate Aoun's military intelligence chief, Lt. Col. Adel Sasseh, who escaped unhurt.

Aoun claimed the assassins were Syrian agents. But informed sources said they were pro-Geagea soldiers in Aoun's command.



Sudan enters 1990s in hands of military junta

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

KHARTOUM — Sudan's military government is vigorously enforcing its authority as the new decade opens.

"The revolution will destroy anyone who stands in its way...and amputate those who betray the nation," says military strongman General Omar Hassan Ali Bashir.

Bashir's 15-man junta seized power from an elected civilian government in a June 1989 coup and assumed authority over almost every aspect of life in Sudan, Africa's largest country and one of the world's poorest with a per capita annual income of \$440.

The 52-year-old devout Muslim, a battle-hardened soldier in Sudan's civil war, became the de facto head of state, prime minister, defence minister and commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

He pledged sweeping reforms, including peace with rebels who have been fighting a bush war since 1983 against what they see as the domination of mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan by the Muslim north. Bashir himself served at least one combat tour against the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Bashir imposed a state of emergency, suspended the constitution and dissolved parliament, political parties and trade unions.

Diplomats and opposition sources said a wide-scale purge of the civil service carried out by the junta on seizing power was mainly targeted at leftists, perceived by successive Khartoum governments as SPLA sympathisers and the traditional opponents of past military governments.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International said in December political opponents were being held by the junta as hostages against a possible popular uprising.

Foreign diplomats and opposition sources allege many of the scores of detained junta critics were beaten and families spend

days and sometimes weeks trying to discover where their relatives are being held.

Information Minister Ali Shomou categorically denied the reports of the beatings. "It is not in the Sudanese nature to be involved in such actions," he told Reuters.

Opposition sources say scores of trade union members and political activists are being held from travelling.

Doctors, whose outlawed union staged a one-week strike in November, have since been banned from leaving the country except on government-sponsored trips.

A doctor accused of leading the walkout has been sentenced to death and the junta warned that it would strike with an iron fist against any further industrial actions.

Khartoum residents say they are stopped by plainclothes policemen who ask them to empty their pockets to check whether they are carrying foreign currency, a crime punishable by death under a law introduced by the junta in July.

A prominent businessman was hanged in December for illegally possessing foreign currency and at least three others were sentenced to death by military tribunals which convicted them of similar charges.

Khartoum, a mainly slum city of an estimated seven million people, has been under a night curfew since the coup.

Tanks still stand outside army headquarters, the radio and television building and on key bridges.

Bashir has vowed never to allow the return of a multi-party system and recently spoke of an umbrella political organisation — effectively a one-party system.

Libyan-style popular committees, established by the junta and given far-reaching powers, are said by residents to have taken the law into their hands in some of Khartoum's poorest districts.

The committees, whose authority is said by Bashir to be second only to the junta, have mainly absorbed members of the now-banned National Islamic Front (NIF) party, the diplomats and opposition sources said.

Bashir, whose junta is widely suspected of leaning heavily towards militant Islamic ideology, has repeatedly denied the existence of any link between his government and the NIF, whose leader was freed from jail in December.

Diplomats and opposition sources said the junta's rhetoric, political agenda and the wide support it receives from student bodies dominated by the NIF suggested the opposite.

The NIF campaigned for years for a strict implementation of Islamic sharia laws and advocates a hard line on the SPLA rebellion.

The junta and the SPLA held two inconclusive rounds of talks, in Addis Ababa in August 1989 and four months later in Nairobi but they collapsed at the end of the year over the rebels' demand that Islamic law be lifted.

Amnesty International said in a report issued in December that government forces and militias fighting the SPLA on the army's behalf have continued the pattern of human rights violations which existed prior to the June 30 coup.

The reports mentioned killings, extra-judicial executions and mysterious disappearances of southerners in the south and in one case in Khartoum.

The junta has not commented publicly on the report, but the government-controlled press has in several articles described Amnesty's findings as lies.

Last week, foreign relief workers and diplomats said tens of thousands of people could starve in southern Sudan because the junta was delaying a relief programme with what they called near-impossible conditions.

Among other demands, they said, the government was insisting that only basic supplies, mainly food and medicines, be sent to SPLA-controlled areas and that plans to improve the administrative and education system in those areas be cancelled — conditions they said the SPLA could not accept.

The junta has accused relief workers of smuggling arms and ammunition to the rebels under the cover of aid operations but has failed to produce evidence.

'Invincible' mayor faces toughest test

By Lee Byrd
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Marion Shapovalov Barry Jr., mayor of the U.S. capital, used to brag that he was the fellow who hadn't been caught, while many of his chums and associates, even a former wife, had gone to jail.

He had his vices, he acknowledged. But, as he told the Los Angeles Times in a memorable barroom interview just a month ago: "I'm not stupid enough to have done the things they accuse me of. God gave me a good brain."

"What I have done," he said, "nobody knows about, because I don't get caught."

In that same conversation, Marion Barry, 53, had pronounced himself politically "invincible" after 11 years as mayor. And for a few moments Friday, he seemed just as cocksure when he was led into a federal courtroom to be arraigned on a misdemeanor charge of possession of crack cocaine — the very drug that is the scourge of the city and has turned it into the nation's murder capital.

With a dignified stride, he headed for the table marked "defendant" and, with rock-steady nerves, poured a glass of water to the brim. He teased a courtroom artist, who was focusing on him through tiny binoculars, by encircling his own eyes with his fingers.

Then the magistrate noted that, if convicted, Marion Barry could go to jail for a year. Suddenly, the mayor's facial muscles betrayed him. The cool smile vanished, replaced by clenched teeth, perhaps only then had reality sunk in.

Despite numerous allegations of drug abuse, womanising, mys-

tery trips and inattention to the city's business, Barry had planned to announce his candidacy for a fourth term as mayor on Sunday.

Backed by a city political machine rivaling that of the late Chicago mayor Richard Daley, few would have ruled out a victory — even with the prospect that Washington's other preeminent black leader, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, was himself eyeing the office.

No more, Barry, in tears, yielded day-to-day control of the city government on Friday to a deputy, Carol B. Thompson, saying he wanted to devote his time to preparing his defence. The government's case against him includes a positive urine test for cocaine and a videotape that allegedly shows him buying and smoking crack in a hotel room occupied by a longtime girlfriend who cooperated with the FBI.

A close adviser to Barry said Saturday the mayor planned to enter a substance abuse treatment programme, and a local television station reported that decisions about whether he would run for reelection were on hold for at least 30 days.

For years, Barry's black supporters — including Jackson, who was a fellow lieutenant in Martin Luther King's civil rights crusade — had lined up behind the mayor when he denied misconduct and swore, time and again, that he had never used drugs. By his account, such reports were generated by a venal white media and a Republican presidential administration eager to reclaim the reins of city government from the black community.

But, while Jackson, rarely at a loss for words, held his tongue over the mayor's arrest, others felt pushed over the brink. Espe-

cially in the schools, where Barry, like Jackson, routinely preached against the evils of cocaine, the sense of betrayal erupted in shouts of pain and despair.

"What makes me so mad is that the mayor is black, representing us, our race," declared Anthony Wither to his high school history class. "Doesn't he know the stereotypes someone like me already faces? This just makes it worse. I just know it will be worse."

And this, from junior classmate Terri Dantzer: "He goes around telling us not to do drugs, then does them himself. I feel pitiful. And he should be ashamed."

Among community and political allies, the dismay extended to another question as well. That was how a man who prides himself on his intelligence, and who was already under scrutiny for alleged drug use, could have walked into such a trap?

"It raises the Gary Hart question: How can one person be so stupid?" said Democratic pollster Mark Mellman, referring to the former presidential candidate who challenged the media to track his personal life, then spent time with a woman other than his wife.

U.S. attorney Jay Stephens said Barry's arrest at a downtown hotel was "part of the ongoing investigation of a broad range of allegations" against the mayor, dating to the discovery that he had visited a known drug dealer, Charles Lewis, in another hotel a year ago.

Lewis was sentenced Friday to 15 months in prison for conspiracy to distribute and possess cocaine. He had told the court during his trial that he obtained crack cocaine for Barry on at least three occasions.

LETTERS

To the Editor:

I READ Erwin Frenkel's article in the Jordan Times (January 20) the other day and thought I don't really care for his reasons for resigning as editor of The Jerusalem Post, I was thrilled to read something about the purpose of journalism.

"Journalism" he wrote, "is an enterprise in social judgement." "Journalism," the ex-editor said, "helps place events in a more explicit context of narrative understanding." He called journalism a "guardian of a public trust."

Judging from the positional layout of that article, I presume that the editor also wanted to bring home a few inkling points.

I do not understand how the Jordan Times, with years of experience behind it, can, at times, allow the publication of articles that serve only to boost the ego and pride of frivolous writers. I am sure I am not alone when I say that the only English daily newspaper in Amman has become a haven for literary and reporting hacks whose sole purpose in writ-

Be serious

ing is to see their names published. We are reading material in Open Forums and columns that is insulting to anyone who knows what good writing is.

Forget the grammar and punctuation errors. It is the material and the information and the innuendo that has become unbearable. Most of this stuffy and ostentatious writing is filled with recurrent reference to the self, i.e. the writer and his/her puny views. There is an obvious attempt to be original and witty but these things surely must be more subtle and levelheaded. I am reading material in this newspaper that is not much better than school scribbling.

I do not wish to make personal attacks. One article in an Open Forum, however, made a direct and insulting verbal assault on the personal opinions of readers. I do not quote directly but it sounded something like this: If you don't like what I'm writing, publish it here. With a word of warning, the impulsive writer went on to say: I'll attack you back.

Is this what you call fair-minded and reasonable writing?

Does this bizarre writer think she/he can impose useless views on us by telling us that no matter what we think, he/she's got the upper hand? What about the editor? Why did he allow this to be published?

I want to read intelligent and mature opinions even if I don't agree with them. That is what the editors of the Jordan Times should be looking for. Well-formulated, well-balanced writings that show a deep understanding of social, political or any other matter, and an individualized, thoughtful way of perceiving these matters. Then, we can agree or disagree; but at least we'll be working our brains, not allowing them to rot over pretensions and immature comment-slingers!

This newspaper should be more than a "social judgment." It should respect its public by publishing material that is worthy of reading, material that is thought-provoking and judicious. Until then, it really cannot reflect the true minds of its public.

Haya Huseini
Amman

Soviet rock opera reflects changing times

By Alan Cooperman
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The first Soviet rock opera, a production that dates from the Brezhnev era, has come to New York with the original cast but new optimism.

In the concluding scene, the narrator tells the audience that the opera's Russian hero and his American lover tried to bridge the distance between the two countries with love. The entire cast of 60 then sings "Hallelujah" with such abandon that the tragic finale is all but forgotten.

"Eight years ago, when we sang 'Hallelujah' about a Soviet-American love affair, it was virtually an act of sedition," Yelena Shanina, the lead female singer, recalls.

"Now, it's celebrating a new beginning."

Even the name of the opera has changed with the times. To the original title, "Junon and Avos," producers Lucy Jarvis and Pierre Cardin have attached a subtitle: "The Hope."

Whether the good feelings and exotic music will succeed in filling New York's City Centre Theatre for the five-week run is still uncertain. A spokesman said ticket sales were slow before the Jan. 5 opening but have picked up since the first reviews — favourable though not ecstatic — appeared last week.

Regardless of whether the \$2-million production is a commercial success, its arrival represents the culmination of an extraordinary

political journey.

When it somehow squeaked past the censors in 1981, the opera caused a sensation in Moscow. Though set in 1806, it contained a thinly disguised caricature of Leonid Brezhnev as a doddering old man with a chest full of medals and a gold mask with huge eyebrows.

That, alone, might have ensured a throng of Soviet theatre-goers. But Andrei Vosnesensky, a leading Soviet poet, added two other politically daring elements in his libretto. One was a reverent treatment of religious symbols, including words from the Russian orthodox mass.

The other was an implied message that the Soviet Union shared the blame for an impasse in relations with the United States. That message was expressed through the story of Count Nikolai Rezanov, who courageously sails off to explore trading links with California — then a Spanish colony — and falls in love with the governor's daughter.

"Junon and Avos," named for Rezanov's two ships, ends in tragedy as politics and illness foil Rezanov's mission and separate him from his lover, the beautiful Conchita. She waits 35 years for his return, then enters a convent when she learns he died before obtaining the czar's permission to marry her.

Vosnesensky says the plot is loosely based on historical truth — there was, indeed, a Count Rezanov who helped found the Russian-American Trading Co.,

travelled to California in 1806 and died in Siberia on his way home.

But the rest of the story is pure fiction. Vosnesensky now acknowledges that he conceived it, following the outline of his earlier poem "Avos," as a metaphor for the strained Soviet-American relations of the Brezhnev era.

"My hero, historical Count Rezanov, was not a great fighter for freedom. But I have put in his mouth all the words of our intellectuals," Vosnesensky said in an interview in New York.

"When he says 'The Russian empire is a prison,' our audiences understood what I was saying. Now it's okay just to say it. But in 1981 it wasn't okay. So I put the words in Rezanov's mouth — and it worked."

It didn't work right away, however. Vosnesensky and director Marc Zakharov repeatedly modified the opera in an effort to gain permission for it to open at Moscow's Lenin Komsomol Theatre. After the authorities had rebuffed them for the second or third time, Vosnesensky recalls, he began to despair.

"I was worried, but Zakharov said to me, 'there is one more person I know who can help us.' So I didn't ask questions. I got in his car, we went to the main cathedral of Moscow, and we lit candles to the Virgin Mary."

"I don't know whether maybe Zakharov called someone else that night. But the next morning, 'Junon and Avos' was allowed."

Timothy Ryback, a Harvard

University researcher who has written a book about rock 'n' roll in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, says that despite official condemnation, rock music had developed a huge following in Russia by the end of the 1960s. Nevertheless, "Junon and Avos" is believed to have been the first full rock opera publicly staged in the Soviet Union.

Cardin, the French fashion designer who has set up clothing factories in the Soviet Union, heard about the show and asked to see it while on a three-day business trip to Moscow in 1982. It was not playing that weekend.

So the ministry of culture, eager to please the famous designer and perhaps secure business links with his fashion empire, moved the entire set and company to a vacant theatre 40 kilometres outside Moscow. There, the ministry staged a command performance on little more than a day's notice — much to Cardin's embarrassment, he said.

Enraptured by the music — an eclectic mix of folk melodies, thumping electric guitars and Gregorian chants arranged by contemporary composer Alexei Ribnikov — Cardin decided on the spot to try to bring the show to his Paris theatre, Espace Cardin.

He says Soviet cultural officials tried to persuade him to take the Bolshoi ballet or the Moscow circus instead, but he held firm and eventually got his wish after appealing to Brezhnev's successor, Yuri Andropov.

"I say I want to make something young for the young people," Cardin recalled. "I tell them the whole that is from before the revolution."

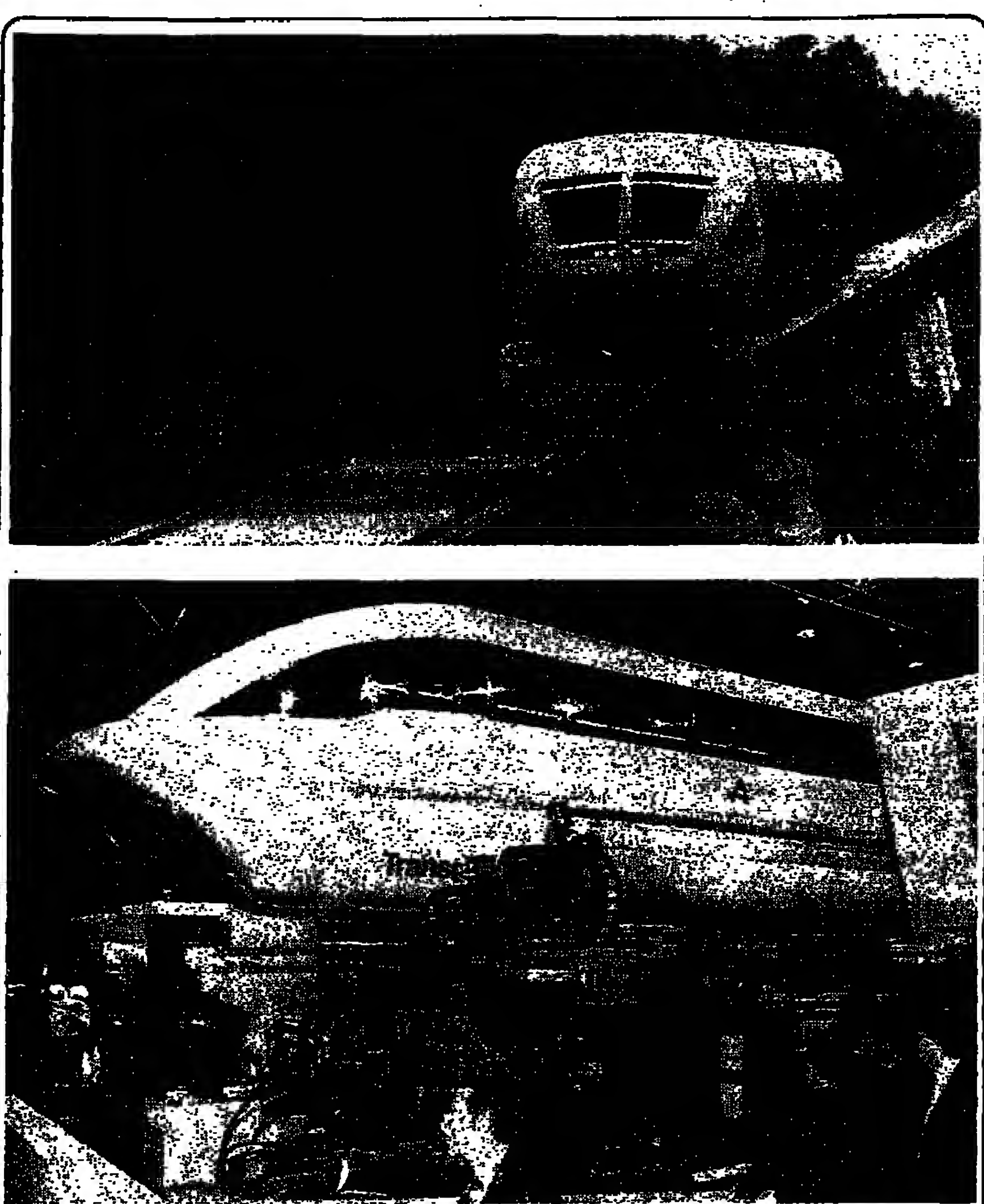
Then, just a few days before the show Paris opening in September '83, a Soviet fighter pilot shot down a Korean Air Lines flight 007, with 269 people aboard, after it apparently strayed into Soviet air space over the sea of Japan. Suddenly, Cardin began to worry about bombings and security.

"My friends say to me, 'Pierre, you cannot do this (opera) now, because if you do that, your theatre — poof — bomb.' People were so mad. But I say I make this only for talent, for respect for the Russia. I am not a politician," Cardin said.

Although the Paris production went off without a hitch, Cardin said he hesitated to bring "Junon and Avos" to the United States until superpower relations began to improve under Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

The arrangements in New York were made by Mrs. Jarvis, a New York television and theatrical producer who took the Broadway musical "Sophisticated Ladies" on a seven-week tour of the Soviet Union in the fall of 1988. She and Cardin say the production might travel in the future to San Francisco and Japan.

"I am not a politician," said Cardin. "But maybe with art, you can build something stronger than with politics."



The "Transrapid" the German high-speed hovertrain, recently reached 430 kilometres per hour on the test stretch of track in Emsland. In a few years' time this 'Train of the future' will be running between Bonn and Essen, linking the Düsseldorf and Cologne/Bonn airports. Photo: DaD/dpa/Messe Düsseldorf).

'Transrapid' makes two airports into one

By K. Rüdiger Durth

BONN (DaD) — The Bonn government has decided on a definite policy for rail traffic in the future. The "Transrapid," the high-speed hovertrain developed by German firms with a speed of up to 500 kilometres per hour, will run on a 100-kilometre stretch of track between Bonn and Essen. From 1996/1997 the Transrapid will link the major airports at Düsseldorf and Cologne/Bonn with one another. Air passengers will be able to move from one airport to the other within 15 minutes.

The Bonn government has also decided that new track will be laid between Cologne and Frankfurt to take the high-speed Inter-City Experimental (ICE), to be ready for operations by 1991. The ICE will halve the two-hour travelling time needed at present to get to and from these cities. This high-speed track, which will have a stop in Bonn, will create an important stretch of the future high-speed link between Paris and Frankfurt, via Brussels and Cologne, with connections to any number of other destinations.

Heinz Riesenhuber, the Bonn government's Scientific Research Minister, believes that there are great opportunities for the Transrapid, whose development the Bonn government has so far supported with DM1.4 billion. Herr Riesenhuber said: "I see in the high-speed hovertrain an

environmentally-friendly option for future high-speed rail systems, which can make a valuable contribution to the rail network as a whole." "Transrapid" and ICE are mainly designed to relieve the pressure on German air space, making short-haul flights superfluous.

At the same time the Bonn government hopes for good sales of the high-speed hovertrain on world markets. The "Transrapid" is ideally suited for fast connections between cities in sparsely-populated regions. It is not surprising then that there is considerable interest abroad, particularly in the U.S., for this German "Train of the future."

With this decision for the construction of the first stretch for use by the "Transrapid" the two airports, Cologne/Bonn and Düsseldorf, will develop to be almost a single major airport in North Rhine-Westphalia. It should relieve overburdened Frankfurt airport.

The new "Transrapid" will not be built by German Railways, the Bundesbahn. It is more likely that the train will have its own construction and distribution company, which will consist of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the cities of Cologne, Bonn, Düsseldorf and Essen, the airports and air companies. It is estimated that the construction of the Bonn-Essen track for the "Transrapid" will cost DM3.2 billion. To this can be added DM400 million for the trains.

By Denis M. Searles
The Associated Press

DENVER — There's more capitalism than altruism these days behind the resurgence of the once nearly extinct buffalo — the shaggy animals are easier to raise, fetch more per pound and are lower in fat and cholesterol than beef.

The buffalo, which once roamed the great plains like a moving black fur robe, was hunted for meat and hides in such great numbers that historians say by 1889 fewer than 600 remained. Since 1970, the number of buffalo has doubled in this country to about 60,000, according to the American Bison Association.

About 400 stockmen, ranchers like Brian Ward of Center, now raise buffalo because of a beef market made unstable by American eating habits. Ward runs 1,700 head of his 100,000-acre spread in southern Colorado's San Luis valley and sells about 45,360 kilos of boneless meat a year.

"We get long winters in this valley," he said. "The buffalo

hide's thicker (than cattle), they got a lot more hair and they eat and tend to be more like wild animals — store fat in the fall and their metabolism slows down in the winter, so they require less feed."

"There are some exciting times. We drive them about 55 kilometres to pasture and back every year cross country. We used to use horses but we use motorcycles now. The buffalo don't charge the cycles as bad as they do horses."

The price of good buffalo breeding stock has doubled in the past five years to about \$1,500 for a young breed cow, twice what a comparable beef cow brings, according to the Denver-based ABA. But buffalo meat also brings twice the price of beef, and it's lean meat. An 85-gram serving has 93 calories, compared to 183 for beef; 43 milligrams of cholesterol, compared to 55 for beef; and 1.8 grams of fat, compared to 8.7 for beef, the association says.

A buffalo cow can bear calves for 30 years or more, while a cow is usually sent to slaughter after

about 10. Stockmen can also sell skulls for \$100 or so, uncured robes for \$6 to 12 a square foot, and mountable heads for \$400 on up.

The symbol of the American west is an imposing animal. It has a black-brown, shaggy head and cape and short curved black

new tanning method that let the spongy hides be used as leather, and political expediency — to destroy the plains Indians' food supply.

In 1872, Col. Richard Irving Dodge wrote there was "apparently no limit to the number of buffaloes." A year later,

"A century ago, the buffalo was nearly exterminated as the railroads pushed westward. The slaughter was triggered by demand for meat to feed the rail crews and the crowded east, a new tanning method that let the spongy hides be used as leather, and political expediency — to destroy the plains Indians' food supply."

horns. A mature bull stands more than two metres tall at its hump and weighs 900 kilos.

A century ago, the buffalo was nearly exterminated as the railroads pushed westward. The slaughter was triggered by demand for meat to feed the rail

crews and the crowded east, a

he found "myriads of carcasses, the air was foul with a sickening stench and the vast plain, which only 12 short months before teemed with animal life, was a dead, solitary, putrid plain."

Historians estimate 6.3 million buffalo were killed in seven years.

The plains Indians, whose society depended on the buffalo for food, shelter and clothing, either starved or surrendered. Their lives were so miserable the "ghost dance" cult sprang up, preaching that whites would be buried and the buffalo would return. The army's massacre of 200 Sioux at Wounded Knee at the end of 1890 ended the "ghost dance" movement.

It wasn't until the early 20th century that buffalo preservation became a concern. The newly created American Bison Society and President Teddy Roosevelt were able to convince Congress to set up preserves in Oklahoma and Montana in 1907. By then there were several hundred buffalo in private herds.

"It was the ranchers who really took it upon themselves to save the Bison," said Duane Lammer, president of the ABA. "Some of those early people who wanted to save the buffaloes had Indian heritage, some had Indian wives. It was very important to them to save the bison..."

"I think, too, it was just out of genuine care for them."

Buffalo stockmen warn that the bison remains a wild animal, extremely powerful and territorial. There is an old saying that you can push a buffalo anywhere it wants to go. Another is never turn your back on a buffalo.

But the advantages are apparent as well.

"They are easier to take care of," said Lammer, who runs about 1,000 head on his Triple Seven ranch in South Dakota.

"If a storm comes up, I'm not losing sleep over my cattle. With my buffalo, I can just sleep through the night."

Students want courses in democracy, ouster of bad teachers

By G.G. Labelle
The Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Romania's revolution moved into university classrooms Tuesday with students demanding an end to courses on Marxism and the dismissal of professors regarded more for their knowledge of Communism than of physics or chemistry.

Notices posted on doorways at Bucharest's Polytechnic University called for required military courses for women to be dropped and for student votes on the competency of teachers to be introduced.

In dormitories, students sought to get rid of residents suspected of having informed for the deposed government.

The Romanian students' meetings and petitions mirrored the string of public denunciations that have arisen since dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown Dec. 22 and executed three days later.

Newspapers have denounced everyone in turn, from Ceausescu to the country's current interim leaders and in one case even the head of a small farm cooperative accused of buying a university diploma with 200 pigs.

In the polytechnic's physics department, students were signing petitions Tuesday to demand the ouster of a professor Named Ilie Cucuzeanu.

"In his lectures he started by explaining Communist ideology, but he couldn't explain physics," charged Daniel Florescu, 22, a second-year student from Bucharest.

Roxana Mitroi, 20, from Romania Moldavia complained that Cucuzeanu often asked students who gave incorrect answers, "What kind of Communist are you?"

Florescu said the second-year physics students had met with the department dean, who promised

to cooperate with them. Dean Juliet Floria said she told students she would submit their request for Cucuzeanu's dismissal to the faculty, along with a suggestion that his upcoming exam for second-year students be reviewed by a professorial committee.

"It will be up to the faculty to decide," she said, but added, "we have to answer the students' demands."

Cucuzeanu took another view. "We don't have to bend our ears to students' talk," he said. Wrapped in a coat and scarf in his sparsely heated office, Cucuzeanu denied he infused his courses with talk of Communism and offered to produce documents from the ministry of education — issued under the old government — testifying to his

credentials. He maintained only second-year students wanted him fired because they'd become caught up in last month's revolution and had not studied enough for his exam.

"Until now, I never had problems with students," he said. However, hundreds of signatures on the petitions were from third- and fourth-year students shot fac-

ing Cucuzeanu's exam. Students said that in other departments of the polytechnic, a sprawling campus with nearly 30,000 students, efforts also were under way to dismiss professors viewed as incompetent or as Communist party apparatchiks.

At Bucharest University, students were making similar moves. There are factions in the language department for and against the

firing of Michaela Ceausescu, a niece of the late dictator, as a professor of Russian. The issue has been submitted to the central administration for a decision.

At the polytechnic, student Sorin Popoaie said dormitories were organising to get rid of suspected informers, often non-students who lived in the dorms as administrators or staff.

"In my dorm, we confronted

two of them in the hall last night," said Popoaie, 22, from the town of Baia Mare.

"It started with a couple of us and one of them said, 'no not me, you people are the informers,'" Popoaie related.

"But," he continued, "when a crowd gathered, the same person said, 'the police called me and asked for information. What could I do?'"

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EUROPEAN SOCCER

Italian league shrugs off mid-season blues

Reuter

WITH Diego Maradona singing the charms of Napoli and Dutch international Marco van Basten delighting in a new-found happiness with AC Milan, the Italian Soccer league seems to be all smiles after a spate of winter blues.

While the Argentine World Cup captain led the league leaders to a 2-0 victory at Verona on Sunday to keep his side two points in front, van Basten scored twice as Milan beat Udinese by the same margin to stay three points behind with a game in hand.

Van Basten's double for the world club champions made him the top scorer in Italy, taking his tally to 12 goals with five of them

in the last four days of domestic league matches.

"I score because I'm happy," the European footballer of the year told the Gazzetta Dello Sport paper afterwards.

"I'm a happy man because I don't have physical problems any more. And if my luck holds out I can score quite a few more goals," said van Basten, who was sidelined earlier this season because of a cartilage operation on his knee.

Maradona, who picked up his team's second goal in the 41st minute after an own goal by Verona's Maurizio Iorio put Napoli in front, was also brimming with satisfaction.

"Today I saw once again the great Napoli. We'd understood we were going through a difficult

patch and so we talked it out," he said, referring to a string of poor results that culminated in his team being booted off the pitch earlier this month.

Maradona had himself come in for a hefty amount of personal criticism as Napoli struggled to beat humble opposition and he was clearly satisfied the bad times were now over.

"Napoli's face is no longer ugly, it's beautiful," he said.

Internazionale, second in the standings two points behind Napoli, were also celebrating victory over Sampdoria, who had been third before the game, thanks to two goals from West German captain Lothar Matthäus — "the unstoppable panzer."

Elsewhere in Europe, the joy was more muted.

In the Netherlands, gloom ruled at the top of the first division as PSV Eindhoven returned from their winter break with a lacklustre 1-1 draw against second-last BVV Den Bosch.

The match was overshadowed by morale problems sparked by 26-year-old Wim Kieft, who wants to leave PSV because he feels neglected in favour of recently acquired strikers Romario of Brazil and Flemming Povlsen of Denmark.

"PSV is playing so clinically and with so little pleasure that their performance cannot be



Marco van Basten

separated from the Kieft affair," wrote the mass circulation Telegraf newspaper.

The draw put PSV a mere point ahead of Roda, which leapfrogged to second place over Ajax Amsterdam when Ajax vs. Den Haag was postponed due to crowd trouble.

Manchester United also had further problems in the English first division by losing 2-0 at Norwich, leaving them just one point outside the relegation zone and behind arch-rivals Manchester City for the first time since 1982.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JANUARY 23, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can put your mind on money matters now and make a special point to let those about you see that you are the one who is concerned with financial aspects and security.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) There will be several projects available now by which to the beauty of your home. Although tempted to do so, this is no time for a change in finances.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You will instinctively know what friends to listen to and join in amusements today. Your creative ideas for making more money are correct so follow them.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You seek adventure in your free time today, but don't take too many risks. Unless you are careful you will spread your resources too thin.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You will need to meet with friends quietly to work out trips that are planned. Let your stomach know of your sincere feeling today.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your social life can be whatever you wish to make it today. You need to be better aware of conditions before making investment decisions.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Lend a hand to unfortunate

persons who are having a difficult time and you will have a pleasant feeling. A private evening with male relatives peace.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Avoid heavy investments or you would lose a lot of funds. A person who is a troublemaker should not be allowed to enter the doorway at home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You will gain security now by handling all obligations with good common sense. You can solve a personal situation of concern to your mate.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A very good friend will see that you will have a good time today. Take your attachment with you on trip away from home.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't be too hasty in an involvement of a business nature. Look at all the glamorous persons you see, but remain loyal to your attachment.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You will be well advised to avoid getting in a fix with fellow associates today. A successful friend will give you a good idea for increasing leisure time.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You will be able to add to the appearance of your home by changes to it.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN:

Edberg cruises on as Krickstein falls; McEnroe's exit dominates talk at open

MELBOURNE (AP) — John McEnroe, still crazy after all these years, threw his racket and a tantrum Sunday at the Australian Open and became the first player in 27 years to be tossed out of a grand slam event for misconduct.

He let himself get rattled by missed shots, close calls and a baby's cries, and after his default, with a 6-1, 4-6, 7-5, 2-4 lead against Mikael Pernfors, McEnroe admitted: "I don't really have anyone to blame but myself."

It was a bizarre chapter in the career of one of the finest players in tennis, a 30-year-old former champion who entered the Australian Open determined to win his first major tournament since the 1984 U.S. Open.

It was originally believed McEnroe was the first player ousted from any grand slam tournament, but officials unearthed two other cases.

Colombian-born Spaniard Willie Alvarez was defaulted from the French championships in 1963 and American Earl Cochell was ousted from the U.S. championships in the 1950s after a prematch altercation with officials.

McEnroe's exit dominated talk at the Australian Open on Monday, overshadowing unseeded David Wheaton's 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, 6-3 victory over fellow American Aaron Krickstein, the fifth seed, who was playing with a groin injury.

Number three Stefan Edberg joined Wheaton in the quarterfinals by beating fellow Swede Jonas Svensson 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 in a fourth round match.

Defending champions Ivan Lendl and Steffi Graf overcame unusually sloppy play earlier Sunday while American amateur sensation Angelica Gavaldon kept rolling to reach the quarterfinals.

Gavaldon, an effervescent 16-year-old who entered as a qualifier ranked 192, upset 15th-seed Gigi Fernandez 6-3, 1-6, 6-2.

Gavaldon, who beat former two-time champion Hana Mandlikova in the third round, next meets West German Claudia Porwik, who beat South African Dinky van Rensburg 7-6, 3-6, 6-4.

Lendl hit 46 errors yet never was threatened in beating Australian Simon Youl 6-1, 6-3, 6-1. Unseeded Soviet Andrei Cherkasov upset number nine Andres Gomez of Ecuador 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-5).

Graf started with an ace and ended with another one to notch her 45th straight victory, 6-2, 6-3, over 13th-seed Raffaella Reggi. Helena Sukova, who lost the 1989 finals against Graf, ended the surprising surge of Japan's Kimiko Date 6-4, 6-3.

But the McEnroe episode overshadowed all other play on Sunday.

Only two days before, after winning his third match and playing his best tennis in years, McEnroe talked about how important it is for him to keep his temper under control.

Yet all it took for McEnroe to revert to his old ways was a tough match against Pernfors, the Swedish-born two-time collegiate champion.

McEnroe won the first set easily, but as Pernfors picked up his game in the second set, McEnroe became increasingly agitated. After netting a short drop shot, he smashed the ball on the ground as if it were an annoying bug.

He snatched another ball after a missed forehand and nearly hit a ballboy. He asked for new balls before serving the 10th game, complaining the old ones were dead, but was broken for the set.

— his third straight break — on Pernfors' backhand volley of a shallow lob.

McEnroe slammed a ball in the air after a miss in the first game of the third set and almost hit Pernfors in the back, then stalled between shots by pacing angrily behind the baseline. Pernfors, bothered by the tactics, was broken.

McEnroe took a 2-1 lead after an exchange of breaks, but on the changeover he stood in front of a lineswoman he thought made a bad call.

Bouncing a ball on his racket and glaring at her in intimidating fashion, McEnroe was hit with a code violation for unsportsmanlike conduct by umpire Gerry Armstrong.

McEnroe argued with Armstrong, then returned to play, finally held service, and went on to take the set.

He seemed to be in control of the match and himself again, but suddenly became distracted by a crying baby while serving the sixth game, with Pernfors ahead 3-2.

"Give him a drink, the boy's hungry," McEnroe yelled, looking up in the section of the stands where the baby was crying.

Armstrong asked the parents to take the baby out of the stadium, and after the mother and baby left, a fan yelled, "can we breathe, John?"

McEnroe fell behind 15-30 on a wide forehand, then bounced his racket on the court. At deuce, McEnroe hit another forehand wide, then smashed the court again with his racket, cracking the head slightly.

Armstrong called a code violation for racket abuse, and McEnroe responded by swearing at him and asking for Ken Farrar, the grand slam chief of supervisors.

Farrar came onto the court and talked with McEnroe, but the American continued complaining and swearing, his four-letter words clearly audible to nearby fans and television viewers.

Armstrong, with Farrar's approval, called "code violation, further abuse, default Mr. McEnroe, set match," Farrar later described McEnroe's harangue as the most vile language he'd ever heard in a tennis match.

McEnroe stood with his hands on his hips while the crowd of 15,000 whistled, booed angrily and chanted, "we want McEnroe."

McEnroe simply packed his rackets and left the court. The crowd roared its disapproval for another 15 minutes but left peacefully.

"It's appalling," said Mal Tuohy, one of the screaming



John McEnroe

fans. "He'll never come back to Melbourne again, and I don't blame him."

McEnroe, composed and speaking softly a few minutes later, said his mistake was in not understanding the rules. He thought the rules of last year's grand slam tournaments were in effect — four steps to default rather than three — warning, point, default.

McEnroe acknowledged, though, that he has told about the three-step rule, adopted by the grand slam committee this year from the association of tournament professionals rules.

He didn't apologize for his actions, and said he was surprised by the officials' decision rather than his own behaviour.

"This is like a long story that culminates in me getting defaulted in a big tournament," he said.

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♠ 7 2	♠ A K 5 4 2
♥ 10 8 6 4 3	♥ 10 8 6 4 3
♦ 10 8 6 4 3	♦ 10 8 6 4 3
♣ 10 8 6 4 3	♣ 10 8 6 4 3
SOUTH	WEST
♠ A 5	♠ A 5
♥ A 5	♥ A 5
♦ A 5	♦ A 5
♣ A 5	♣ A 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠. Finding the multiple times that will allow you to land a contract is only part of the problem. You have to test them in the right order to get the best shot at your contract. North opened in his shortest minor to facilitate a rebid. South's jump shift showed either a one-suited hand or a holding with a good fit for North's suit. When South rebid the spades, denying the latter, North's doubler was adequate support. South then bid what he expected to make.

West's lead of the queen of hearts got the defenders off to their best start. Can you spot the way to combine your possibilities?

The trump finesse is a straight 50-50 shot. However, if the spade finesse loses, you get no second chance—the defenders will take a heart right away. Therefore, refuse the finesse in favor of cashing the ace—after all, the chance of dropping the king are about 26 percent. No luck this time, however, but that's only the first arrow in the quiver.

The diamond finesse is also an even-money bet. But here, too, if it loses you are going down. So postpone taking diamonds until you have probed the club situation.

Test the clubs to see if they are breaking 3-3 by cashing the ace-king and leading a third club. When East shows out, that comes to naught. Ruff and fall back on your last hope, the diamond finesse. Fortunately, something good finally happens, and you can discard your heart loser on the ace of diamonds. Depending on the lie of the cards, this line might fail when a straight-forward finesse succeeds, but we'd far rather have three chances for our contract than one or two.

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Villainous	1. Down
2. Declines	2. Down
3. Assured	3. Down
4. Fine fabric	4. Down
5. Other guess	5. Down
6. Mixture	6. Down
7. Quoted as	7. Down
8. Lived in	8. Down
9. Literary	9. Down
10. Collection	10. Down
11. Sought land	11. Down
12. City on the	12. Down
13. Rio Grande	13. Down
14. Sheet material	14. Down
15. Cheese	15. Down
16. Out — fib	16. Down
17. Produce	17. Down
18. Red Cross	18. Down
19. founder	19. Down
20. Fellow	20. Down
21. Healthy	21. Down
22. John	22. Down
23. Ciao	23. Down
24. Doctrine	24. Down
25. Statue of	25. Down
26. Liberty	26. Down
27. Inscription	27. Down
28. poet	28. Down
29. Chequer	29. Down
30. Low Lat.	30. Down
31. Came to rest	31. Down
32. Anti	32. Down
33. Frank	33. Down
34. USSR sea	34. Down
35. Tribal suffix	35. Down
36. Supervisors	36. Down
37. Western	37. Down
38. Plain	38. Down
39. Western	39. Down
40. alliance	40. Down
41. Consumers	41. Down
42. Love god	42. Down
43. Br. gun	43. Down
44. Blows	44. Down
45. Entertainment	45. Down
46. org.	46. Down
47. Pine Tree	47. Down
48. State	48. Down
49. Perfume	49. Down
50. oil	50. Down
51. Carat	51. Down
52. Honorary state	52. Down

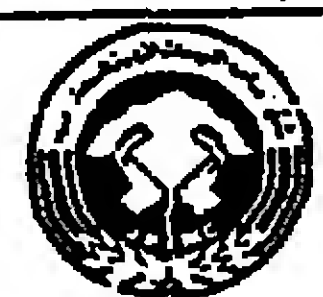
Saturday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Down	2. Down	3. Down	4. Down	5. Down	6. Down	7. Down	8. Down	9. Down	10. Down	11. Down	12. Down	13. Down	14. Down	15. Down	16. Down	17. Down	18. Down	19. Down	20. Down	21. Down	22. Down	23. Down	24. Down	25. Down	26. Down	27. Down	28. Down	29. Down	30. Down	31. Down	32. Down	33. Down	34. Down	35. Down	36. Down	37. Down	38. Down	39. Down	40. Down	41. Down	42. Down	43. Down	44. Down	45. Down	46. Down	47. Down	48. Down	49. Down	50. Down	51. Down	52. Down
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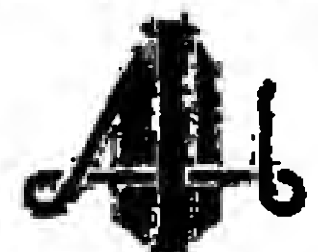
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Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Violence rages in Kashmir amid Indo-Pakistan talks

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — Snipers fired at Indian troops from rooftops, and roving militants defied a curfew to hurl stones at soldiers Monday as the death toll in Kashmir's latest explosion of violence reached 40.

"The whole city is up in revolt," Srinagar Police Inspector General Mohammad Noman said.

The Islamic militants, who want Kashmir to become independent or merge with neighbouring Pakistan, marched out of homes and mosques in at least three areas of Srinagar as government troops sought to keep everyone off the streets.

One paramilitary policeman was killed by a sniper and one protester was shot to death by the army Monday, Noman said.

He said 38 other people, most of all of them militants, had died since the trouble started late Saturday night.

In New Delhi, Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan held talks with the new Indian government on the unrest in Kashmir, officials said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), the main group fighting Indian rule, called a strike Monday in protest at the weekend violence and Khan's visit, fearing a deal with Delhi for a crackdown on its activities in Pakistan.

The militants have created

near-anarchy in predominantly Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state. Srinagar and other major towns have been under curfew almost continuously for a month.

India and Pakistan fought two of their three wars since independence in 1947 over Kashmir, a strategic territory wedged between China and Pakistan. It also borders India's Punjab, where thousands have died in a Sikh separatist campaign.

India accuses Pakistan, which controls one-third of resource-rich but cash-poor Kashmir, of aiding militants and turning a blind eye to arms-smuggling across the ceasefire line.

Pakistan denies training or arming the gunmen, a point Khan was expected to hammer home in Monday's talks with India's newly-elected National Front government.

Indian Foreign Minister Inder Gujral, in a banquet speech welcoming Khan, said pointedly that Pakistan should abide by the 1972 peace accord that settled the last war, in which each promised not to help the other's dissidents.

Delhi says Jammu and Kashmir

is part of the Indian union, while Pakistan — and the United Nations — maintain it is disputed territory and should be allowed self-determination through a plebiscite.

The growing violence could easily spin out of control and embroil India and Pakistan in another conflict, the president of Pakistan-controlled Azad (Free) Kashmir said Sunday after meeting Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Sardar Abdul Quyyum Khan said there was a real danger that Kashmiris in the Pakistan army on a United Nations-supervised ceasefire line dividing the disputed Himalayan region could desert with their arms to join the militants.

The ceasefire line snakes through mostly forested mountains where Pakistan and Indian soldiers eye each other from bunkers a few hundred metres apart.

The state government appealed to its employees to donate blood to save the lives of the critically injured. Srinagar's two main hospitals said they received a total of 150 injured people, most suffering from bullet wounds.

Thousands of Muslims took to the streets beginning late Saturday night after government security forces rounded up suspected militants. Noman said 251 people had been detained in the raids but all except four had been released in an attempt to ease the situation.

He estimated the militants' strength at 1,500 and said they had at least 1,000 weapons, mostly automatic rifles.

The first killings came late Saturday when paramilitary police fired on a stone-throwing mob. Confrontations continued Sunday.

But as the day wore Monday, bands of 50 to 100 men ignored the curfew.

At least 50 people streamed out of one mosque in downtown Srinagar. Some hurled stones at the troops, while others beat their breasts and shouted: "You Indians, go back."

Teenage boys hauled out an Indian flag and shredded it in front of the soldiers. As the stones continued to fly, soldiers opened fire. One demonstrator fell to the street dead.

Heavily armed soldiers guarded government buildings and bridges over the streams running into Dal Lake, once a major attraction for the thousands of Indian and foreign tourists who used to flock to the Kashmir Valley.

Public transport and private automobiles were banned and gasoline stations were closed out of fear the militants would extract fuel to make firebombs, a police officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Roh, Kims to form one party

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-Woo formally announced Monday that his governing party would be dissolved to create a huge new conservative party in alliance with two moderate opposition groups.

Roh announced the decision on national television after a 10-hour meeting with opposition leaders Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil at his office.

"We are standing here to open a new historic chapter for democracy, prosperity and national unification," said Roh, flanked by the two Kims, who head the nation's two major opposition parties.

Roh, looking grim, said the new party, tentatively called the "Democratic Liberal Party," would be inaugurated within six months and encompass "all centrist, democratic forces."

The announcement made no mention of changing the country's current presidential government system to a cabinet system, but officials said the leaders reached full agreement on that.

They decided, however, not to announce plans for changing the government structure for the time being to avoid friction with the country's largest opposition party, led by Kim Dae-Jung, officials said.

Kim Dae-Jung's party vehemently opposed the new conservative alignment, calling it "a political coup d'etat aimed at holding on to power." He demanded immediate elections to seek public judgment on the change.

'Washington mayor filmed having sex'

WASHINGTON (R) — Washington Mayor Marion Barry was filmed having sex with a woman in a police "sting" operation that ended with his arrest on drug charges, a local television station reported.

The CBS-affiliated station said Sunday police videotaped Barry, a former black civil rights leader, having sex with Rasheeda Moore, a Washington hotel room before both smoked cocaine supplied by a second woman, a federal agent.

Moore, a friend of the mayor, had agreed to take part in the undercover "sting" because she was facing perjury charges at the time, according to the report which quoted reliable sources. The federal prosecutor's office had no comment.

Barry's lawyer said his client, mayor of the U.S. capital for the past 11 years, would not resign. "Resignation is not one of the viable options that we will consider," Lawyer R. Kenneth Mandy said.

Barry, 53, was charged Friday with a single misdemeanor count of possessing "crack" cocaine. Prosecutors said he was videotaped smoking crack and later tested positive for cocaine in blood and urine samples.

There has been speculation Barry's defence might argue that Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents trapped the mayor into buying drugs.

Roh Tae-Woo

There also was no mention of leadership, power distribution and the party platform in the announcement. Officials said all details would be discussed in a lower-level joint committee.

Roh said he and the two opposition leaders shared the view that South Korea's faction-ridden politics, based on intense regional factors, must be changed to prepare for national unification and a new political order in the 1990s, with emphasis on dialogue and compromise.

Monday's meeting was arranged after weeks of secret talks, in which the three parties had agreed to merge.

Before the meeting, Kim Young-Sam, head of the second largest opposition group, the Renovation Democratic Party, said that he, Roh and Kim Jong-Pil would be the new party's temporary co-leaders until it is formally inaugurated.

Officials said that after the new party is formally launched, it would be headed by a collective leadership, with Roh serving as ceremonial head.

8 Indian soldiers killed in Jaffna clash

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Eight Indian soldiers and several Tamil rebels were killed in fierce battles at the weekend in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna district, Indian diplomats said Monday.

A spokesman for the Indian high commission (embassy) said members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked troops with rockets and heavy firearms Sunday from houses in a heavily populated area.

A rebel account of the clashes alleged the Tigers were attacked by rival Tamils backed by Indian forces and that several civilians were killed in the fighting.

Indian troops had imposed a curfew at the scene of the fighting at Ariyalai, 16 kilometres from Jaffna City, Sri Lankan military sources said.

The Indian spokesman said eight soldiers were killed and 10 wounded in the battles. Several militants also died, he said.

Tigers issued a statement claiming the Indian troops killed 20 Tamil civilians and destroyed

at least 100 houses in an attempt to eliminate Tiger supporters. The Indian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, denied the Tiger's accusation.

Both sides said the clash at Ariyalai, 28 kilometres northeast of Colombo, was a serious violation of the cease-fire they had agreed upon last September.

The Indians were on a routine patrol in Ariyalai, a Tamil village three kilometres south of Jaffna, when they were attacked by Tiger guerrillas, the Indian diplomat said.

The Tigers, whose statement did not mention any guerrilla casualties, claimed the Indian attacked first, aided by guides from a rival Tamil militant group, the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front.

Indian troops, who entered Sri Lanka in 1987 to help end a Tamil revolt against the Sinhalese-controlled government, have been withdrawing and are scheduled to pull out the last of their troops by March 30.

Political crackdown continues in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — Haiti's military government has arrested and deported more political opponents in the second phase of a crackdown unleashed with the declaration Saturday of a 30-day state of siege, diplomats and opposition sources said.

Haitian authorities Sunday arrested at least one more prominent figure, Communist Party leader Max Boujeault, and were searching for others on a special arrest list, foreign diplomats said.

Boujeault, his party's second in command, was deported to Guadeloupe, Louis Roy, one of the chief architects of Haiti's 1987 constitution, and Gerald Brun, a leader of the leftist Conaom coalition, were expelled to Miami, the source said.

Military officials said the 30-day decree was spurred by the machine-gun slaying on Friday

night of an army colonel, his wife and maid.

Fearing that they would be targeted next for arrest, some anti-government leaders have gone into hiding.

All appeared quiet in Port-au-Prince, no army patrols could be seen and transport functioned.

Dozens of political leaders and militants have been rounded up, according to witnesses.

Bourjoly, Dr. Sylvain Jolibois of the small radical Jean-Jacques Dessalines Group, Abby Brun of the centre-left Congress of Democratic Movements Party, and about 30 militants of that party, remained in custody Sunday, said Moysse Senatus, the party's co-leader.

Sylvio Claude, the popular radical leader of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party, called the AP Sunday to say police

Prosper Avril

"had come to get me" Saturday but he escaped and was in hiding. Hubert de Ronceray of the rightist Mobilisation for National Development Party, who got his deportation order late Saturday, said on arrival in Miami that he was the army's real target and "the government killed him (the colonel) because they made a mistake."

Bombings bring warning of more hate crimes in U.S.

By Robert Green Reuters

WASHINGTON — Two fatal bombings in December have brought warnings from the government about a growing threat of violence in the United States from hate groups pushing their own style of bigotry.

"We face a mounting threat," Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, the country's chief law enforcement official, said in a recent speech. "Some 230 hate groups in the United States have multiplied racial violence eight-fold over the '80s."

The bombs — both sent by post — killed white Federal Judge Robert Vance near Birmingham, Alabama, and black attorney Robert Robinson in Savannah, Georgia.

Vance had made several rulings in favour of civil rights and against hate groups. Two other mail bombs were found at a federal courthouse in

Atlanta, Georgia and the Jacksonville, Florida, office of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), one of the biggest and oldest of U.S. civil rights groups.

Federal investigators said all four bombs were similar and probably were sent by the same person or group, but no suspects have been identified.

The previously unknown Americans for a Competent Federal Judicial System claimed responsibility for the bombings and threatened to kill other judges, lawyers and NAACP officials in retaliation for alleged sexual attacks by blacks against white women.

"When we hear of bombings, obscene phone calls, hate mail — each one of us must speak out. And there is no place for the baggage of bigotry in the United States of America," President George Bush said at a White House ceremony marking the birthday of the Re-

verend Martin Luther King Jr, the black civil rights leader who was assassinated in 1968.

Thornburgh said the bombings were part of an increase in attacks by hate groups against blacks, Jews, Asians and other minorities.

"Our continuing course will be to investigate, indict and punish those who unleash their bigotry and intolerance in cowardly acts of anonymous vandalism, open abuse or conspiratorial violence," he said.

He said the justice department had prosecuted 62 defendants in 41 racial cases last year, twice as many as in any single year before, and had won almost every case.

Groups he cited included those with names like the Order, White Aryan Resistance and Posse Comitatus, which all advocate white supremacy.

Indian government files charges against Bofors

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Government investigators filed preliminary charges against the Swedish arms manufacturer A.B. Bofors Monday, accusing the company of cheating India out of \$37 million in a 1986 arms deal.

Papers filed with a special New Delhi court also accused unnamed Indian government officials of criminal misconduct leading to the loss of 640 million rupees (\$37.6 million), the news agency said.

The reported legal action was the first step by new Prime Minister V.P. Singh towards fulfilling his election campaign promises to root out corruption he says flourished under his predecessor, Rajiv Gandhi.

A.B. Bofors has rejected allegations of wrongdoing. Gandhi's government signed

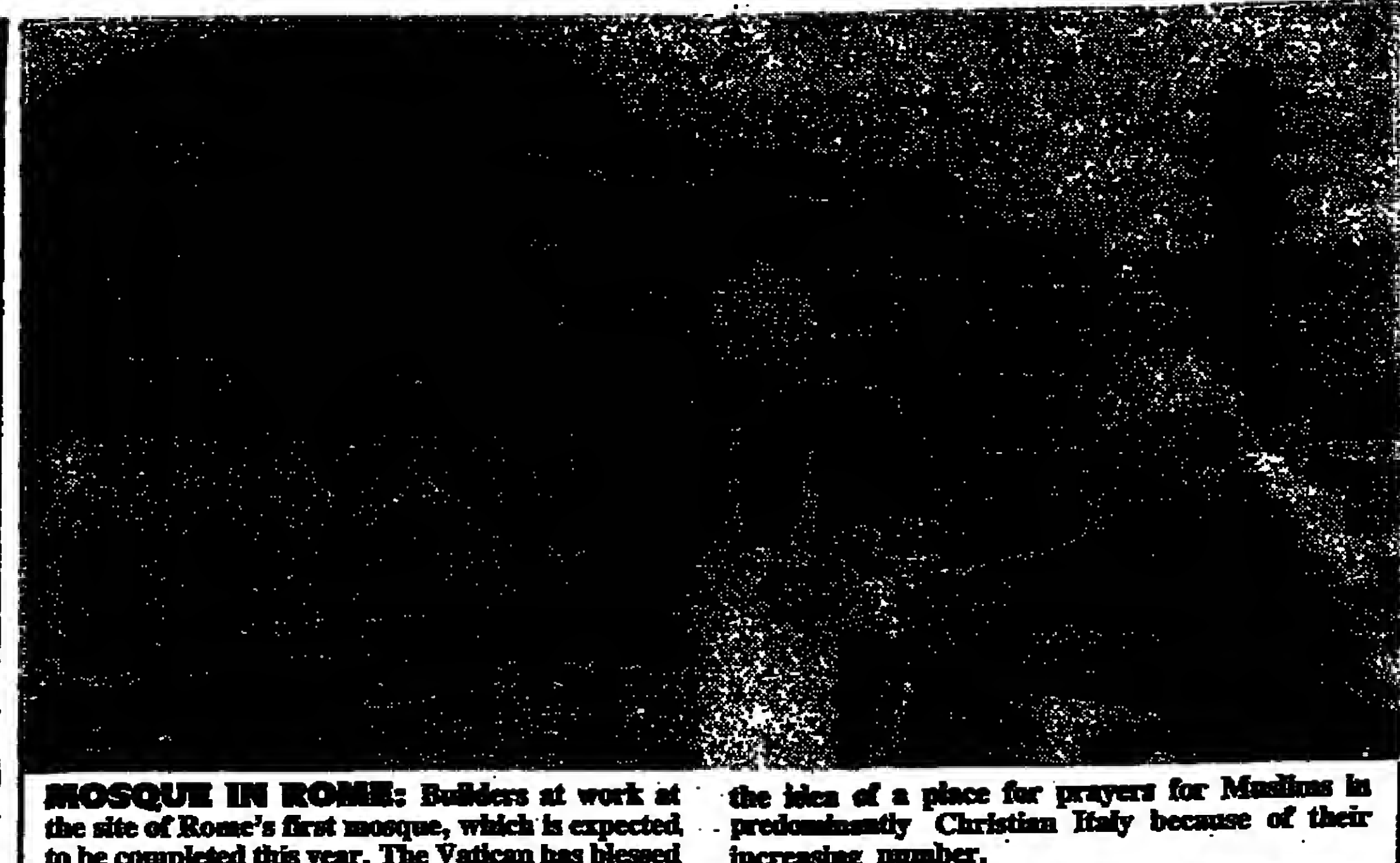
the 1986 contract with Bofors and agreed to pay \$1.4 billion for four hundreds 155-millimetre howitzer field guns. But the following year charges surfaced in Swedish and Indian news media.

The charges gave Singh a powerful weapon in last November's election. Although Gandhi outpolled Singh, he could not master a majority of seats in parliament and Singh formed a minority government.

Gandhi also has denied the charges of corruption in his government.

The newspapers claimed as much as \$50 million in kickbacks were paid to intermediaries, including people close to Gandhi and the ruling circles of his Congress Party.

The charges filed Monday were lodged by India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).



MOSQUE IN ROME: Builders at work at the site of Rome's first mosque, which is expected to be completed this year. The Vatican has blessed

the idea of a place for prayers for Muslims in predominantly Christian Italy because of their increasing number.

Opposition studies joining East German government

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — East German opposition groups considered Monday joining Prime Minister Hans Modrow's struggling government to help guarantee the country holds its first free elections in 100 days' time.

Modrow, whose government has lurched from one crisis to another in its nine weeks in office, urged the opposition to join his coalition and said his offer was "not just a friendly gesture but a reflection of the prevailing conditions."

His Communist-led coalition suffered a major setback Monday when Finance Minister Uta Nickel resigned after a criminal investigation was launched against her.

A Communist economist, Nickel was a key figure in Modrow's team not least because of her role in drawing up plans to reshape the economy by altering taxes and slashing subsidies.

"Frau Nickel declared her resignation and I have accepted it," Modrow told round-table talks between the five government parties and a dozen opposition groups at the Niederschoenhagen government mansion in the north of East Berlin.

At least two groups, the Social Democrats and Democratic Awakening, said they thought the entire round-table effectively should become the government in an emergency as long as the conditions were set in advance.

Modrow said he was prepared to start talks Wednesday to lay down the ground rules for a grand coalition.

"It will not just be a question of

me offering you posts and you having to be satisfied," he said, adding that a grand coalition would help speed up reforms because everyone would be in the same boat.

"In the future everyone will be asked what they did during the revolutionary transitional period to relieve the difficult conditions facing the people and give them hope," he said.

Social Democratic leader Ibrahim Bohme said: "I believe such participation is only possible if all parties and groups at the round-table join in an emergency without long coalition negotiations that would further damage the country."

Bohme's party has mushroomed from nowhere to become a growing force as the May 6 elections approach and could be further bolstered by the charismatic former Communist Party Deputy Chairman Wolfgang Berghofer, the Dresden mayor, who quit his party Sunday.

He and 39 other Dresden party members said they would not be seeking office but supported Social Democratic policies.

Berghofer said the Communist Party should dissolve itself to take responsibility for its Stalinist past.

Over the weekend the Communist leadership resisted such calls and instead tried to purge its ranks by expelling virtually all remaining former politburo members.

One of those thrown out was former party chief Egon Krenz. Opposition leaders joined with Modrow Monday in denouncing a newspaper report that army and

secret police units are planning a coup.

The coup report appeared in Monday's editions of West Germany's mass-circulation Bild newspaper, which said that a general strike could trigger such an armed takeover.

"I must decisively reject as provocation a report in today's Bild newspaper," Modrow told Communists, opposition leaders and others engaged in the negotiations.

Modrow then cited the report that a coup was being planned, that weapons had allegedly been handed out and exercises undertaken as preparation.

"Overnight, I consulted with the national defence minister and the interior minister, and had the situation checked," Modrow said. "The weapons are stored and nowhere have there been (joint) exercises."

Modrow also said he was convinced there were no plans for an opposition-led general strike, which Bild claimed was being prepared if the government does not make key concessions. Bild cited unidentified opposition sources for the information about the reported coup plans.

Bohme, of the Social Democratic Party, said the Bild report undermines public confidence in the government. Wolfgang Schur, a top official of the Demokratische Aufbruch Movement, called the Bild report a "horror story."

New Forum delegate Ingrid Koeppel also criticised the Bild report, saying her movement did not provide the newspaper with the information and denying that the group planned a general strike.

Anne hopes for better role models

LONDON (AP) — Princess Anne, daughter of a reigning monarch, says she wishes her children had better role models. "I look around and wonder what sort of examples they have to look up to now," the daughter of Queen Elizabeth II told a BBC Radio interviewer. "That worries me. I don't think there are very many... I think their elder generation is to blame for that." Anne, 39, who separated from her husband, Mark Phillips, in August, said she is not very strict with her 12-year-old son and eight-year-old daughter. "I don't go along with the 'seen and not heard.' It would be very nice but I think it's rather an impractical suggestion really," said the princess. She said her travels on behalf of the Save the Children's Fund, of which she is president, have made her more concerned about what she sees at home.

'Batman' loses duel

BURBANK, California (AP) — Adam West, the caped crusader in the "Batman" TV show, lost his dynamic duel against advertising agencies that produced a commercial using an actor who had his bat moves down well. West, who still dresses up as Batman for public appearances, sought \$900,000 in damages for invasion of privacy, unfair competition and unauthorised use of an endorsement. But Burbank Superior Court Judge Stephen O'Neil ruled that the central issue was a contractual one that had nothing to do with West's portrayal of Batman. "Adam West is a talented actor, but he was an actor, not the creator of Batman," O'Neil said. The 30-second commercial was produced for Zayre, a discount store chain. West, 59, had insisted the impostor trampled on his artistic expression. "When you look at the Mona Lisa, you don't think of identifying the copy with the original," he said.

Armoured car bandit surrenders to FBI

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A former armoured car guard kept his promise and has surrendered to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) two years to the day after he says he stole \$651,000. "America is a great country," Edward Leigh Hunt, 26, said as federal agents hustled him away Saturday. Hunt — who said he gambled away the booty during his two years on the lam following the Jan. 20, 1988, Philadelphia holdup — said in a Dec. 20 letter to his hometown paper, the Wilmington (Delaware) News Journal, that he would give himself up. As promised, he showed up at midday Saturday in front of the downtown Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce. Shirtless and wearing blue jeans and brown leather shoes, Hunt walked to the middle of a street, raised his arms and surrendered to four FBI agents. "Clear the way," the agents barked at reporters and camera crews as they led Hunt, looking pale and frightened beneath wet shoulder-length hair, inside the chamber building. Several youths who identified themselves only as friends of Hunt applauded and yelled, "Yeah Lee," and "Let him speak," as he was led inside. Hunt was being questioned by federal agents and would be booked at a U.S. marshal's office, said FBI spokesman Fred Reagan. Hunt was to be arraigned Monday on federal interstate theft charges, Reagan said.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	08	46	11 52 Cloudy
ATHENS	08	46	11 52 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	11	52	17 81 Clear
BANGKOK	24	75	33 91 Clear
BEIJING	17	62	32 80 Clear
BOMBAY	07	45	20 84 Clear
CHICAGO	01	33	04 54 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	05	41	07 45 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	02	38	05 41 Cloudy
GENOVA	05	23	05 45 Clear
HONG KONG	10	50	14 57 Cloudy
STANBUL	02	38	06 45 Cloudy
LONDON	07	45	20 84 Clear
LOS ANGELES	11	52	13 55 Cloudy
MADRID	14	57	27 89 Clear
MEXICO	18	64	31 91 Cloudy
MOSCOW	-18	08	21 Clear
NEW YORK	-03	27	03 37 Cloudy
PARIS	04	57	27 89 Clear
ROME	04	39	05 42 Clear
SYDNEY	-03	27	14 51 Clear
TOKYO	20	68	23 78 Cloudy
VIENNA	01	37	04 30 Clear